Joint patrolling along LoC with Pakistan

759. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has mooted the proposal to have joint patrolling along the Line of Control with Pakistan in order to detect infiltration from Pakistan side;

(b) if so, what is Pakistan's response on this proposal;

(c) whether this proposal was considered earlier also; and

(d) if so, why it was dropped then?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) In an attempt to test Pakistan's seriousness about implementing its commitment to stop infiltration and cross border terrorism, the Prime Minister during the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measure in Asia (CICA) Summit in Almaty on June 5, 2002, proposed Joint Patrolling along the line of Control. Pakistan rejected the proposal saying that it was "nothing new and unlikely to work".

(c) and (d) The proposal of joint patrolling was considered earlier on various occasions. However, it could not fructify because Pakistan differed from India's position on the meaning and concept of 'Joint Patrolling' which was not acceptable to India.

MoD's concerns *over* China's continuing military support to Pakistan and Burma

760. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Ministry has expressed concern over China's continuing military assistance to Pakistan and Myanmar;

(b) if so, whether China has also started strengthening and modernizing its armed forces; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government has expressed concern from time to time, about China's continuing military assistance to our neighbouring countries, including Pakistan and Myanmar.